

**For Release 10 a.m. EST
April 14, 2008**

Lake County Juvenile Court Announces Filing for Mediation in the Supreme Court of Ohio

Filing expected to limit expensive litigation of Juvenile Court budget.

PAINESVILLE — April 14, 2008 — Today in the Ohio Supreme Court in Columbus Ohio, Judge William Weaver filed a COMPLAINT IN MANDAMUS in an attempt to settle a budget dispute with the Lake County Commissioners. In the Complaint, Judge Weaver asked that a peremptory writ of mandamus be issued directing the commissioners to appropriate reasonable and necessary funding for the Juvenile Court. In addition to the mandamus action Judge Weaver also filed a MOTION FOR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE in which the Judge asked that the case be referred to mediation.

Case Mediation

Mediation is a settlement process in which the Ohio Supreme Court's mediation attorney meets informally with Supreme Court litigants to encourage them to develop workable solutions for their differences away from the courtroom. The section accomplishes this mission by convening the parties in confidential negotiating sessions, facilitating the negotiations, and monitoring settlement solutions until the parties have concluded their case.

Benefits of Mediation

Mediation is desirable for cases such as this budget dispute because it is a less adversarial and hostile process which allows the parties to settle in a positive and functional manner. Litigation time is significantly decreased thus saving the parties additional expense. Agreement would conclude the dispute at the Supreme Court of Ohio, as well as in the Court of Appeals and all other legal forums.